

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2163
Examiner: Fernandez, Cheryl M.

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JUN 02 2005

June 2, 2005

Customer Assignment No. 27276
Serial No. 10/032,915
Filed: December 28, 2001
Inventors: James M. Plasek et al.
Title: DATABASE SEARCHING USING TRAPEZE FETCH
Attorney File No.: RA-5420
Confirmation No.: 7998

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION VIA FACSIMILE
FILING OF A RESPONSE**

I hereby certify that the attached Response in the above-identified patent application, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being transmitted to telefax number 703-872-9306.

Date: June 2, 2005

PAT OLIVER
(Print Name)

Pat Oliver
(Signature)

3 Sheets Inclusive

**CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT IS REQUESTED
VIA RETURN FACSIMILE TO 215-986-3090**

Attorney's Docket No. RA-5125
Amendment

Serial No. 09/096,822

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Response to Communication indicating Non-Responsive Amendment

Dear Sir,

This is responsive to the official communication of 05/16/05, which was in turn responsive to applicant's amendment of 12/29/04. A one month time for response was granted in the communication.

REMARKS

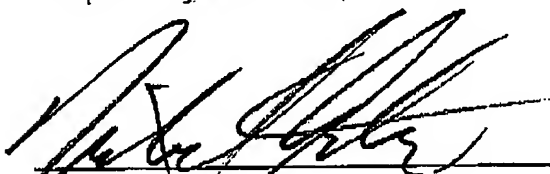
The applicant apologizes for the confusion the amendment may have caused.

To the applicant, it seems apparent that the signal described, "next sequential leaf page fetch locator signal" is simply a pointer or indicator, to a next sequential leaf page, found or located ("resident" to use the language of the claim) in the leaf page. See for example Fig. 5 item 57. Here this signal is used to go to the item 52 when it is indicated that such an action is appropriate. (Thus the indicated leaf page is the one considered "next" in box 52). It is believed to be commonly understood that one may use "signal" as a word to take the place of values such as addresses or data or pointers in systems using electronic memory because such things have a signal

value or a set of signal values. If there is some articulated reason to object to the use of this term, Applicant will endeavor to use a different term. However, as the term was present in the original claims they form part of the original disclosure and it is believed should be acceptable for use in this manner. It is endeavoring to describe "leaf page to leaf page fetching (called sequential or sometimes right leaf fetching)" (Summary, page 5 lines 28 and 29), which is one of the set of two types of search processes used in these claims.

It is now believed and hoped that the confusion has been lifted. However, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephonic inquiry from the Examiner if this is not the case.

Respectfully submitted,



6/2/2005

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